Community College Transfer Update

Presentation to the Board of Trustees

September 21, 2023
Overview

• Community College context
• NIU Goals
• Attracting transfer students
• Supporting transfer students
• Transfer student enrollment
• Examples of Community College partnerships
Community College: National Picture

- Community College enrollment numbers are boosted by the growth in high school enrollment for dual credit (20% of overall community college enrollment).
- 50% of all Hispanic and 40% of all Black students in higher education are enrolled at community colleges.
- 80% percent of students who enroll in community colleges plan on getting a bachelor’s degree but only around 15% do so within six years.
- 43% of credits are lost between two-year colleges and four-year institutions.
## SUMMARY OF OPENING SPRING ENROLLMENTS IN ILLINOIS PUBLIC COMMUNITY COLLEGES FROM 2019 TO 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Spring 2019</th>
<th>Spring 2020</th>
<th>Spring 2021</th>
<th>Spring 2022</th>
<th>Spring 2023</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Headcount</td>
<td>283,146*</td>
<td>279,771</td>
<td>239,819*</td>
<td>233,041</td>
<td>249,836</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Change</td>
<td>-2.2%</td>
<td>-1.2%</td>
<td>-14.3%</td>
<td>-2.8%</td>
<td>7.2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>FTE</td>
<td>154,740*</td>
<td>152,349</td>
<td>131,192*</td>
<td>124,013</td>
<td>132,425</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Percent Change</td>
<td>-3.5%</td>
<td>-1.5%</td>
<td>-13.9%</td>
<td>-5.5%</td>
<td>6.8%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

* Colleges Provided Revised Figures
Supporting Community College Students in IL

- Illinois Articulation Initiative (IAI Act 2017 – amended effective January 1, 2024)
  - NIU Panel Membership
- Reverse Transfer Credit Policy (Student Transfer Achievement Reform Act)
- MyCreditsTransfer designed to facilitate transfer within Illinois using the nationally available tool, Transferology™
2023 University Goals

**Goal 2A:** Increase enrollment and enhance student success

**Goal 3C:** Improve Support for Community College Transfer and Working Adult Students

**Goal 3C (1)** Creating specialized advising resources targeted to the needs of prospective transfer students to enhance their transition to NIU

**Goal 3C (2)** Implementing a technology solution to provide prospective transfer students with credit estimates, recommendations for best fit majors and customized application support
**Goal 2:** Targeted enrollment efforts and improving access and affordability

**Goal 3:** Improving student success, persistence and graduation
Attracting Transfer Students

- Articulation Agreements: Transfer Pathways
- Community College Partnerships
- Credit for Prior Learning Experience
- Guaranteed Admission Program
- Targeted marketing campaigns
- Transfer Credit Estimator
Transfer Credit Estimator

• Went live July 17, 2023
• From July 17-September 10:
  • 977 total user sessions including 219 unique student users
  • 173 accounts created and then turned into transfer prospects
  • 1,567 courses have been added to the tool
Transfer Credit Estimator

Simplify your transfer process
Transferring can be a confusing process. We're here to help you see whether your credits may transfer and what steps you need to take.

Get started

See how your credits transfer

Degree completion
9%

See how your credits transfer to your NIU degree.

Choose major
Send application
Due date

Track your transfer steps, deadlines & progress.

Find resources to ease your transition to NIU.
Supporting Transfer Students

• Campus Visits/Tours for Transfer Students
• Transfer Orientation
• Transfer Admission Counselors (bilingual)
• Student Financial Advising Services (bilingual)
• Transfer Credit Evaluators – Registration and Records
• Commuter and Off-Campus Programs, Center for Student Assistance
• Director of Community College Partnerships, Ron Smith
• Huskie Academic Success Center
Community College Connections

- NIU college visits
- TGIF (Transfers Get Information Fridays)
- Regional college fairs

October 2, 2023, at Waubonsee Community College
Transfer Student Scholarships

- Transfer Merit Scholarship
- Huskie Legacy Award
- NIU Partnership Awards (Kishwaukee College, City College STAR Transfer Scholarship, Transfer Achievement Award)
- State of Illinois’/NIU AIM HIGH Program
- Phi Theta Kappa Honor Society
Transfer Enrollment

- Of the 3,527 students entering in fall 2023, 37.6% were new transfer students, up from 34% in 2022.

- Transfer students make about 12% of total undergraduate enrollment.
  - 73% from community colleges

- About half of new transfers have earned some credit but not an associate’s degree/60 credits (55.8% in Fall 2022).
## Transfer Student Demographics – Fall 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Count</th>
<th>Percent</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>American Indian or Alaska Native</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Asian</td>
<td>109</td>
<td>8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Black or African American</td>
<td>125</td>
<td>9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Hispanic or Latino</td>
<td>325</td>
<td>24%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Native Hawaiian or Pacific Islander</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nonresident Alien</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>2%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race/ethnicity Unknown</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Two or More Races</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>White</td>
<td>714</td>
<td>54%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### First Generation Status – Fall 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>% First Generation Students</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen</td>
<td>51%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>46%</td>
</tr>
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Top Transfer Institutions Fall 2023

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>College</th>
<th>Score</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elgin Community College</td>
<td>147</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Rock Valley College</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>McHenry County College</td>
<td>127</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Waubonsee Community College</td>
<td>100</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>William Rainey Harper College</td>
<td>93</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of DuPage</td>
<td>90</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kishwaukee College</td>
<td>69</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Joliet Junior College</td>
<td>46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>College of Lake County</td>
<td>33</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Illinois Valley Community College</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Sauk Valley Community College</td>
<td>26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>City Colleges of Chicago</td>
<td>23</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### 6 Year Graduation Rate (Incoming Fall 2016)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Graduated in original college</th>
<th>Graduated in different college</th>
<th>Total Graduation Rate</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Freshmen</td>
<td>53%</td>
<td>10%</td>
<td>63%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Transfer</td>
<td>67%</td>
<td>7%</td>
<td>74%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Top Departments for Transfer Students

1. Computer Science
2. Psychology
3. Management
4. Interdisciplinary Health Professions
5. Accountancy
6. Mechanical Engineering
7. Kinesiology and Physical Education
8. Curriculum and Instruction
Community College Partnerships

Serve Workforce Needs + Serve Place-Bound Students
NIU at Rock Valley College

• Engineer shortage in the region
• Launched in fall 2016
• Paid internships and scholarships
• 100% of graduates employed in regional companies or pursuing graduate degrees
• 40+ interns have worked in 18 regional companies
• 98 graduates to date
NIU at Elgin Community College

Targeted initiative to address shortage of bilingual teachers

• Elementary Education
  53 graduated
  38 currently enrolled
  100% on-time graduation rate

• Early Childhood Education
  28 currently enrolled
• Launched Fall 2019

• Programs:
  • Computer Science
  • Psychology
  • Marketing (New Degree Program Spring 2024 TBD)

• Overall retention is 79%

• 112 students have graduated (45 in Computer Science, 57 in Psychology and 10 in Marketing)
MOU signed

Programs to be launched Fall 2024:

- Business Administration
- Computer Science
- Early Childhood Education
- Psychology
- Public Health
Thank you!